

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 03440 251324Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----251325 043158 /44  
O 251316Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5920  
USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03440

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR PGOV WB GW US UK FR  
SUBJECT: ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BY HESS

REF: BONN 3432

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, EMBOFF HAS BRIEFED FOREIGN OFFICE (HENZE AND VON ARNIM) ON THE SUICIDE ATTEMPT BY HESS.
2. FONOFF HAD ALREADY RECEIVED FIRST NEWS OF THE AFFAIR BEFORE EMBOFF ARRIVED. HENZE SAID THAT AN INQUIRY HAD COME IN FROM THE CHANCELLERY, PRESUMABLY FROM THE PRESS SECTION, IN PREPARATION FOR GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN BOELLING'S AFTERNOON PRESS CONFERENCE.
3. EMBASSY OFFICER GAVE HENZE AND VON ARNIM FACTS OF THE SITUATION AS REPORTED IN PARA ONE, USBER 539 AND ADDED THAT AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED THE FOUR POWERS HAD NOT BEEN IN AGREEMENT IN BERLIN AS TO HOW THE INCIDENT SHOULD BE HANDLED IN TERMS OF PRESS AND A VISIT BY HESS' SON ALREADY PLANNED FOR THIS MORNING. ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT RECEIVED FINAL WORD FROM BERLIN, EMBASSY  
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OFFICER ASSUMED THAT THE VISIT HAD TAKEN PLACE.

4. FINALLY, WE INFORMED THE FOREIGN OFFICE THAT THE THREE ALLIES PLANNED TO FOLLOW THE PRESS GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN PARA TWO, USBER 562.
5. VON ARNIM ASKED HOW BOELLING SHOULD RESPOND TO

THE EXPECTED QUESTIONS, AND SPECIFICALLY, WHETHER HE  
COULD CONFIRM THE SUICIDE ATTEMPT. EMBASSY OFFICER  
REPLIED THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD HE CONFIRM  
IT. BOELLING SHOULD SAY THAT IT WAS A FOUR POWER  
MATTER AND THAT ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE REFERRED TO  
THE FOUR POWERS. VON ARNIM SAID BOELLING WOULD TAKE  
THAT LINE BUT COMMENTED PERSONALLY THAT BOTH THE ALLIES  
AND THE FRG WERE CERTAIN TO COME UNDER HEAVY PRESS  
PRESSURE OVER THE INCIDENT.  
STOESSEL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, INSTRUCTIONS, BRIEFINGS, BERLIN QUADRIpartite MATTERS, PRISONERS WELFARE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 25-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BONN03440  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770065-1190  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 374a1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 77 BONN 3432  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3232938  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BY HESS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, WB, GE, US, UK, FR, (BOELLING, GUENTHER)  
**To:** STATE USBERLIN  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/374a1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009